**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1 3 4 6 7 8**

**Enlightenment and John Locke’s State of Nature**

**Enlightenment means that humans develop (become “mature”) through the use of their reason. individuals can seek knowledge and use their own reason rather than be told how to think by the church or the state. Enlightenment means think for yourself!**

1. Founding Fathers
   1. Founders are the people whose ideas are based upon for our country
   2. students of history and philosophy – studied books, read newspapers, and listened to sermons in church
   3. discussed and exchanged ideas with each other
   4. political leaders and statesmen who participated in the American Revolution
   5. took part in:
      1. signing the Declaration of Independence
      2. the American Revolutionary War
      3. signing the Articles of Confederation
      4. establishing the United States Constitution
2. John Locke
   1. English Philosopher
   2. Influenced the thinking of the Founders
   3. His philosophy was based upon natural rights
      1. What would life be like if we lived in a state of nature, with no governments or laws existed
3. State of Nature – this would allow the Founders to figure out how to govern the country
   1. No rules to follow
   2. No one to tell you what to do
   3. No protection
   4. Would this be total chaos?
4. Locke’s Ideas (Ideals)
   1. Through reasoning, rights can be determined
   2. All people have certain ideas about rights
      1. People want to survive – Right to Life
      2. People want to be free – Liberty
      3. People want to own things and gain economic benefits – Property (later is changed to Pursuit of Happiness)
   3. Right to Life, Liberty, and Property are part of the law of nature – not man-made, but made by God
      1. These rights cannot be taken away
5. Locke’s views on what might happen in a State of Nature
   1. Most people are reasonable and good
   2. Most people respect the rights of others
   3. People are driven by self-interest
   4. Some people abuse others who are weaker
   5. People protect their natural rights
   6. People join together to fight against their stronger opponent
   7. No one’s life, liberty, or property would be safe
   8. People feel insecure
   9. People agree to form governments to protect their life, liberty, and property
   10. Governments do not exist until people form them
   11. No one has the right to govern you – the people must give their consent to be governed
   12. The people of a legitimate government comes from the consent of the people, otherwise no government exists
6. Social Contract
   1. Individuals agree with others to create and live under a government and give that government the power to make and enforce laws
   2. Everyone promises to give up the absolute right to do anything he or she wants to
   3. In return everyone receives the security provided by a government
   4. Each person agrees to obey the limits placed upon by the laws created by the government
   5. Their rights to life, liberty, and property are protected by this social contract
7. Government
   1. Purpose is to protect the natural rights of individuals